



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

May 2003



Biological Technician Position: I'm happy to report that the permanent Biological Technician position (GS-404-5/7) is now being advertised. Please spread the word. It is open to both status and non-status applicants. The closing date is June 9. The announcements can be found at the USA Jobs web site.

Data Manager Position: Well, what can I say other than I think we're close to seeing this position hit the street. The hang-up has been getting it classified at the GS-12 level, but I see light at the end of the tunnel.

Document Scanning: Linda Williams and Kary Snyder of Badlands NP have been busy the past few months collecting and scanning publications and other documents pertaining to biological resources in the parks. At some point we will make these available to the parks in pdf format (most likely via a web site). If you have some natural resource documents you would like in digital format let me know. If they can be mailed I (more precisely, Linda) can scan them now. If it requires a visit to your park it will have to wait until the technician is on board.

"Vital Signs" Plan and Park-specific Workshops: We received 5 pre-proposals to develop our Vital Signs monitoring plan, i.e., pick our "indicators." They came from the Universities of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas. I have reviewed the documents, along with 2 CESU Coordinators, the Network Board, and staff at Badlands NP. The proposals are all excellent. We will have a tough choice to make.

Permits: Research permits were applied for last year for the mammal and herp work, and early this spring for the bird work. The plant investigators have been told they need to apply for a permit for those 2 parks where such work is being conducted. Just a reminder to all of you, the permit process requires you to mail a copy of the permit to the investigators for signature and return. The park then signs the permit and mails a copy to the investigators so they have it with them when conducting the work. If you haven't made sure that the investigators have a hard copy of the permit please do so (I'd hate to see them get harassed by a ranger who isn't aware of the I&M Program). Thanks.

Field Inventories: The following was sent to park Resource Managers a few weeks back. I'm including it here for benefit of those not included in that mailing.

Your park is scheduled for field inventories this summer. The purpose of this email is to remind you of the inventories you are getting, and to request your assistance wherever possible (e.g., assist in searches, provide equipment, lodging, etc.). Last year many of you provided assistance to the Principle Investigators (PIs), which was greatly appreciated. If you or your staff could assist the

Principle Investigators again this year it would help tremendously. The scheduled inventories are:

Mammal Inventory (primarily bats unless otherwise noted), Dr. Cheryl Schmidt - Scheduled for AGFO, DETO, FOLA (all), FOUS, JECA (all), KNRI, MORU, SCBL, and WICA (MNRR has been deferred till next year)

Bird Inventory, Arvind Panjabi - Scheduled for DETO, FOLA, FOUS, JECA, KNRI, MORU, and WICA

Herp Inventory, Dr. Brian Smith - Scheduled for DETO, FOLA, FOUS, JECA, KNRI, MORU, and SCBL

Herp Inventory, Dr. Dan Fogell - Scheduled for MNRR and NIOB (note - being conducted under the agreement with Dr. Smith)

Plant Inventory, Bonnie Heidel - Scheduled for FOLA

Plant Inventory, Dr. Carolyn Godfread - Scheduled for FOUS

Their phone numbers are: Dr. Cheryl Schmidt (660 351-0596), Arvind Panjabi (970 482-1707), Dr. Brian Smith (605 642-6879), Dr. Dan Fogell (402 554-2482), Bonnie Heidel (307 766-3020), Dr. Carolyn Godfread (701 223-2546)

All of the investigators have been told to contact the park prior to their arrival. Due to weather and other factors, it's often hard for them to make commitments more than a few days in advance so please be flexible. I should be able to provide a technician for 1-2 weeks of assistance (Leo Acosta From the MWRO) and maybe I can even get out in the field for a day or two. Amy Symstad has offered to assist on the plant inventories. Contact me if you have questions or comments. Thanks for your help.